

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 291908Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6157

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UK, SF

SUBJECT: LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE: SOUTH AFRICA RESOLUTION

1. CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 28 OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVED RESOLUTION CENSURING HMG FOR THE RECENT UK/SOUTH AFRICAN NAVAL MANEUVERS, ENDORSING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S (NEC) CONDEMNATION OF MANEUVERS AND CALLING FOR GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT 1973 LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE RESOLUTION WHICH COMMITTED LABOR GOVERNMENT TO TERMINATE MILITARY RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. TEXT OF RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

"THIS CONFERENCE, SUPPORTING THOSE NEC MEMBERS WHO CENSURED THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE SOUTH AFRICAN NAVAL MANEUVERS, REAFFIRMS THE ROLE OF THE NEC AS CUSTODIAN OF PARTY POLICY BETWEEN PARTY CONFERENCES. THE REPORT OF A LABOR GOVERNMENT PERMITTING JOINT NAVAL MANEUVERS WITH AN OPENLY RACIST REGIME CAN ONLY LEAD TO CYNICISM AMONG THOSE SOCIALISTS WHO LOOKED TO THE LABOR GOVERNMENT

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FOR A LEAD AGAINST RACIALISM. WE CALL ON THE PARLIAMEN-

TARY LABOR PARTY TO SPEEDILY IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM
DECIDED BY THE LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE IN FULL."

2. WHILE THIS RESOLUTION WILL NO DOUBT BE A MINOR EMBARR-
ASSMENT FOR PRIME MINISTER WILSON, IT IS NOT LIKELY TO
HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON UK MILITARY POLICY TOWARD
SOUTH AFRICA. FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN AND OTHER
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO INDICATED THAT HMG
WILL LET THE SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT "WITHER ON THE VINE."
ONE JUNIOR MINISTER TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT THE GOVERNMENT
MIGHT EVEN DECIDE TO TRY TO NEGOTIATE AN END TO THE
AGREEMENT. IT IS WORTHY OF NOTE THAT THE CONFERENCE
ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE, WHICH HAS BEEN SCREENING ALL
EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE CONFERENCE, WAS
ABLE TO QUASH FOUR OTHER RESOLUTIONS, THREE OF WHICH
CONTAINED FAR HARSHER LANGUAGE AND, IF APPROVED, WOULD
HAVE PROVEN MORE TROUBLESOME FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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